

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Italians Feel Power of United Nations As Sicily Topples and Rome Is Bombed; Navy Blasts Japs in Battle Off Munda; U. S. Civilians Get Rationing Forecasts

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.) Released by Western Newspaper Union.

FOOD: Maintain Meat Ration

Maintenance of the present meat ration at "about the present level" was predicted by the War Food Administration following the allocation of estimated supplies among civilians, the services and other users for the next 12 months.

Total allocable meat supplies were put at 2 3/4 billion pounds. Civilians will receive 63 out of every 100 pounds produced, the services will be given 17 pounds, the Allies will get 14 pounds, and allotments for reserves, the Red Cross and exports will amount to 6 pounds.

Of the total supply of beef expected, civilians will obtain 66 out of every 100 pounds, and the services 23 pounds. Other claimants will get 2 pounds. Of the pork production, the civilians' share will amount to 59 out of every 100 pounds, the services' portion will be 12 1/2 pounds, and lend-lease's allotment will approximate 25 pounds.

Total supplies of lamb and mutton are expected to drop sharply from the 939 million pounds of 1942 to 539 million. This compares with the 1935-'39 average of 863 million pounds.

Cheese, Butter

Decrease of government purchases through August, September and October will make available 527 million pounds of butter and cheese for civilians, the WFA said. Of the total, approximately 400 million pounds will be of butter; 92 million pounds of cheddar cheese, and 35 million pounds of other cheese.

WFA also announced that plans were made for about 7 million additional cases of canned baby foods, condensed milk, other milk products and certain canned vegetables and fruits by an increase in canners' tin quotas. However, it was pointed out that shortage in fruit crops may offset the extra tin allotments.

Increased production will allow civilians 388 eggs apiece during the next 12 months, WFA said, 18 more than in 1942.

The Office of Price Administration also stepped into the food picture and announced prices of cabbage and lettuce will be rolled back 25 to 50 per cent.

SICILY: First Resistance

History will record that the first real Axis resistance in Sicily was put up at Catania. Here, in the midst of the broad rolling plains which are criss-crossed by several rivers, German armored forces met the full shock of Gen. Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth army, charging forward after easy capture of the ports of Syracuse and Augusta.

Adept at tank warfare, the Germans took no chances on exposing their mechanized ranks to the big

Neither should we look for a collapse in Germany such as occurred during the last war, Horne said. Clever indoctrination of Nazi principles in the German people has given the nation a firm will to fight the war to the finish, he explained.

ROME: Raid Momentous

One of the greatest stirs of the war was caused by the Allied bombing of Rome. Both here and abroad, no effort was made to minimize the import of the action.

The Allies maintained that Rome constitutes a legitimate military objective, as best illustrated by the railway yards through which all north and south bound traffic in Italy is routed. Demolition of these yards, the Allies say, would severely cripple Axis communication on the mainland.

Besides the important railway yards, Rome also harbors other industrial installations, it is pointed out. In the raid in which 500 American Flying Fortresses participated, the Allies said a steel plant and a large chemical works were damaged.

The Italian government's belief that Rome would not be bombed because of the cultural and religious landmarks which abound throughout the entire area, was indicated by the lack of strong preparation made against attack. Anti-aircraft fire was weak, few planes rose to intercept the Allied squadrons and 166 persons were killed and 1,659 injured.

SOUTH PACIFIC:

1. Planes blast Jap shipping trying to supply beleaguered garrison at Munda.

2. Navy sees six more years of war in Pacific.

Air Power Scores Again.
The devastating striking power of land-based aircraft against surface vessels was again amply demonstrated in the Solomons offensive when American Liberators, Mitchell and Avenger bombers attacked a strong Japanese concentration of 11 warships and transports in Vella gulf, sinking a cruiser and two destroyers and scattering the others.

Sailing in the dead of night, the Japs were making another try at reinforcing their entrapped troops at Munda airfield, on New Georgia island, where U. S. dive bombers also were in action supporting the ground units' creeping attack on the stronghold's jungle defenses.

The attack in Vella gulf followed others made upon Jap vessels in



Sgt. Thomas Gacicot kneels at grave of fallen buddy on Rendova island.

Kula gulf and brought to 24 the number of different enemy ships sent to the bottom since the Solomons offensive started.

Sees Long War.

Because the war in the Pacific must be fought over great distances and bases must be built from the ground up, Vice Admiral Frederick J. Horne, assistant chief of naval operations, declared the navy was figuring on at least six years of fighting.

Horne cautioned against optimism that the war would be over in a hurry, asserting that every slight success fills the people with unwarranted hope and invariably results in a drop of war production. To defeat Japan, he said, we will need a fleet and air force twice as big as the enemy's, and he claimed that the present building program will bring a seven-fold expansion in our navy by 1947.

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Son Decorated



Whenever the Flying Forts roar over the channel of Europe, Mrs. Mary Smith of Detroit, Mich., sticks close to her radio to learn the results. Her son, Maynard, a Fortress crew member, became the first living serviceman overseas to receive the congressional medal of honor for saving the lives of six mates on a recent flight over the continent.

LABOR: Wants Cheaper Food

Declaring "profiteers and speculators are sapping the strength of the nation's army of workers," William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said that unless prices of food were brought down "to a reasonable level," organized labor would demand wage increases.

At present, wage increases have been restricted to 15 per cent over the January, 1941, scales. Leveling his attack on food, Green said that AFL surveys in principal cities had shown costs in labor's market basket had risen from 50 to 200 per cent since the war started.

Criticizing the Office of Price Administration and War Food Administration for failing to halt the increase in food prices, Green demanded "intelligent and orderly action to assure workers and their families of a decent place to live in and enough nourishing food to eat within their incomes."

Green's statement followed one by CIO chieftain William Murray, who similarly threatened that organized labor would seek wage increases unless food prices were rolled back. The administration is committed to a roll-back program.

HOGS: Ceiling \$14.75

With a "floor" or minimum price of \$13.75 per hundred pounds promised for hogs, the government established a "ceiling" or maximum price of \$14.75. At the same time the "floor" was extended to all porkers between 200 and 270 pounds.

Despite the government's promise, however, hogs were selling for less than the "floor" in some big markets. In the Chicago yards, heavy runs recently drove the average price down to \$13.35, with tops averaging \$13.85 and others bringing \$12.85.

Overhauling its present system of slaughter control to provide for record receipts, the government announced that packers will be licensed to operate if they pay not less than the "floor" nor more than the "ceiling" price for hogs, and if they make appropriate division of meat supplies among civilian, military and lend-lease groups.

It was also revealed that the government intended to extend federal inspection to plants now without the facilities. Under present regulations, the government cannot purchase meat from any packers without such inspection. The new arrangement promises a more equitable distribution of meat in the country.

RUSSIA: Front Aflame

On the offensive for the first summer in three years, the Red army hacked at German lines along much of the vast 1,200 mile front.

The main drive remained directed at the Nazi salient of Orel, with Russian forces bearing down upon that hub from north and south. A junction of the two spearheads behind Orel would seal off thousands of German troops now fighting around the city and also sever the railroad from Bryansk carrying supplies to the embattled base.

While fighting raged around Orel, the Reds pressed home three other attacks. Preceded by heavy artillery and air bombardment, they assaulted Nazi lines below Leningrad, near Smolensk and around the German Caucasian base of Novorossiisk, where they had been beaten off this spring.

MANPOWER: Unfreeze Jobs

Workers frozen into their jobs in war or essential industries by an order of the War Manpower Commission April 17, now will be allowed to accept the same positions at higher pay in other plants.

Workers formerly could transfer to other jobs only if laid off for seven days or more, if discharged or if able to show that their skill would be employed to better advantage elsewhere.

Washington Digest

'Food Will Win the War'—And Maybe an Election

Washington Politicians Awaken to Fact That Voting Public, Like an Army, 'Moves on Its Stomach.'



By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building Washington, D. C.

Wars and rumors of war, war production, man power, post-war plans, race riots, roll-backs, gas rationing, strikes, floods, offensives—you can think of a lot more probably. All right, pour them all into the hopper. Grind them up. This is a pretty dish to set before a voter in 1944! Don't worry, he can take it. But take away his bread-basket, and he is a different animal.

Food will win the war. Lack of it can postpone victory if it doesn't spell defeat.

And food, or lack of it, can lose an election, that is what you are hearing in Washington these days.

An electorate, like an army, moves on its stomach. On an empty stomach, it moves away from the "ins." hollers for the "outs" to bring back the bacon. And when you get a customer with both an empty stomach and a full pocket-book hammering on the table and demanding service, you have a hard customer to please.

Slowly, the Washington politicians are beginning to awaken to that fact—that food is going to be the big issue in the next election.

President Saw It First

The President and his keen-eyed, ears-to-the-ground political scouts recognized it first, and when Phil Murray, head of the CIO, and William Green of the AFL began to call for the roll-back of prices, the administration was quick to promise that they would be served "right away." Meanwhile, some of the other guests are beginning to feel neglected.

But before roll-backs au gratin could be served, congress stuck its foot out and tried to spill the tray. For a while, it looked as if there was going to be embarrassment in the political kitchen.

Even if the administration is able to silence the demands and threats of labor, there are a lot of other Oliver Twists who "want some more" and who will twist out of their straight-ticket voting and start looking for "a better ole" unless this food question is solved before the ideo of November MCMXLIV.

Through the days when congress was first trying to fold its tent and steal away from the banks of the Potomac, one thing was clear: unless the administration pulled a nice, fat and succulent rabbit out of the hat which could be served up to the electorate with enough basketful left over for the fighting forces and the hungry Allies and other prospective clients, the Gallup poll vaulters which had re-elected the New Deal in advance would have to start their polling all over again.

The enemies of the administration are building up a barrage to the effect that Mr. Roosevelt has babbled labor and has left his old friends, the farmers, in the lurch. They say that because he was afraid to offend labor, he listened to their demands for lower prices and turned a deaf ear to the farmers' troubles.

This, of course, since it comes from hardly non-partisan quarters, has to be taken with a grain of salt, but whatever the working man says, when he sees the cost of living eating up his former "raises" if he has had them, the record will show that despite John Lewis' polysyllabic attacks on the President, labor has not been treated exactly as a stepchild.

But what has the farmer been getting meanwhile?

A couple of assists, at least, which have benefited him and the war effort at the same time.

FCA Head Reports

Let me report to you what I learned from Governor Black of the Farm Credit administration, an institution which has managed to escape the attacks which most of the government agencies have had to weather.

Governor Black was in Washington the other day—the headquarters of the Farm Credit administration were moved to Kansas City a year ago, you know, in the interest of decentralization and with the idea that after all, Kansas is nearer the center of American agriculture than the Atlantic seaboard.

The governor tells me that the FCA has been used heavily since the first of the year to see that farmers are getting the credit they need to achieve all-out production. He admits that the 50 million dollars loaned to farmers and stockmen isn't much compared with the total amount of production financing which the farmers use in a year but it's something even in these days of astronomical lending, leasing and spending.

The loans are made through the Regional Agricultural Credit corporation.

Here are just a few of the facts Black produced from his briefcase.

Take flax—flax is as important in its way as tanks are in theirs. The automobile manufacturers have had it made worth their while to manufacture tanks instead of autos. The farmers up in—take North Dakota, for instance—have "shared the risk" as Black puts it, with the RACC (Regional Agricultural Credit corporation) which extended them credit to "change over" to flax. Instead of one million three hundred thousand acres of this valuable crop that was harvested last year, a million EIGHT hundred and forty thousand acres were seeded this year (41.4 per cent government financed).

Take dry beans in Montana: 50,000 acres seeded this year, double last year's planting, 84.5 per cent of the crop government financed. I could go down the list with peanuts in South Carolina, sweet potatoes in Louisiana and Mississippi, ad infinitum.

Simple Machinery

The way this share-the-risk thing works is simple. The farmer puts up his land and labor, the RACC puts up the out-of-pocket costs after the county war board and its own representatives have approved the deal.

If the crop comes out all right, the farmer pays the loan. If it is wiped out by bugs, drought or disaster (and when Ol' Man River went hog-wild this spring, there was a lot of wiping out) his liability isn't wiped out, too, because his liability is limited to what he took in from the crop and the incentive payments or insurance on it.

"It wasn't so much a matter of how much money was loaned," Governor Black said to me, "as where it was loaned and what it was loaned for. In the past few months, the country has awakened to the necessity of producing the vital crops to the limit, and that's where we concentrated our financing."

Well, that is one agency that has been able to go ahead without having to duck the political brickbats.

Other government agencies, not so lucky, had to take a lot of punishment that wouldn't have been directed at them if it weren't for politics. The poor Commodity Credit corporation, which everybody seems to love for itself alone, got into an unpleasant jam with the subsidies, and had a tight squeeze partly through pure politics, partly because congress and the President didn't see eye-to-eye on the anti-inflation program.

What most people fail to realize is this: even now with all the splendid effort the farmers have made, agriculture has not yet been entirely "converted"—I don't mean converted to the "all-out" idea but converted in the sense that civilian industry was converted to war production—autos to tanks and planes, sewing machines to machine guns. Industry had plenty of "incentive." The farmers have had some help, will have more.

And the consumer (who is really everybody) and the farmer and the worker, haven't gotten it through their heads yet that unless they all hang together, they'll hang separately.

If we don't get the food, we won't be able to eat the dollars, no matter how many we may have in our sock.

The per capita use of eggs in 1942 was 316. Prospects for this year are about 324 per capita. The army and lend-lease need about 3 eggs out of every 10 produced, which leaves 7 out of every 10 for civilians.



Cows Should Be Fed On Basis of Milk Given

Feed Cannot Be Spared For Low Producers

Nobody knows yet how the crop yields of corn, wheat, barley, soybeans, cottonseed and linseed will compare with past averages, E. J. Perry of Rutgers U. points out. And feed dealers cannot get deliveries very far in advance or in so large amounts as formerly. This makes it especially important to waste no concentrates in feeding, but to feed every cow strictly according to her milk yield in order to meet 1943 goals.

If there's no time to mark down daily milk yields, Perry urges dairymen to do it every week or 10 days and readjust grain feeding accordingly.

On pasture, the rate of concentrate feeding will depend upon how good the pasture is. Early grass up to July usually has more digestible protein than the later, so much less grain is then required than in the winter months.

Pasture is the most natural feed for cows and with plenty of it they will "shine" at the pail, and be in condition to start a good job in the barn this coming fall. It is not uncommon for a cow only medium in size to eat 100 pounds of pasture daily. Neglect of pastures and of cows on pasture is one of the biggest problems facing the dairymen today.



For cows giving 35 to 40 pounds of milk a day, a feed ratio of one pound of grain a day for every seven pounds of milk is about right.

To help herd owners provide conditions favorable to high yields during the pasture season, Perry offers the following reminders:

Fertilize permanent pastures and provide special summer supplementary pastures according to the recommendations of the county agricultural agent.

Practice rotation grazing from one plot to another.

Avoid too early and too close grazing. For regular pasture, four to six inches is a good height.

Adapt the kind and amount of grain to the kind and amount of pasture. Early pasture is high in digestible protein and the grain mixture used can have 3 or 4 per cent less protein than is usually needed for winter feeding.

For the higher testing breeds, a good trial starting rate for a cow which gives 30 pounds of milk a day is one pound of grain for five pounds of milk, and for the lower testing breeds, those giving 35 to 40 pounds a day, a good rate is one pound of grain for every seven pounds of milk, Perry says. Using and watching the scales carefully will tell the story and yield dividends for the owner and the country.

In hot weather, the herd will be better off in the barn during the latter half of the afternoon, especially if the barn is cool and the flies are partially controlled.

Prevent Farm Fires

Fifty per cent of our farm fires are preventable, states F. W. Niemeyer, general agent of the Farm Credit administration of St. Louis. Every farmer should take extra precautions to see that fires are not caused by defective flues, sparks on the roof, smoking, spontaneous combustion and improper handling of gasoline and kerosene.

For the duration it will be extremely difficult to obtain the lumber, hardware, roofing and labor to rebuild. The WLB has limited construction to that which, regardless of cost, (a) is essential to meet production goals, (b) is consistent with sound agricultural practices, (c) uses a minimum of scarce materials, and (d) does not interfere with labor essential to war industries.

Funny what ten years will do. At ten a youngster knows all the questions, and at twenty he knows all the answers.

If you can't make light of your troubles—keep them dark.

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'Bumped Off'

In busy Washington to be "bumped off" no longer means to be taken for a ride—it means to lose a ride. Government officials are bumped off when they lose their seat on a plane to someone with a higher travel priority.

MEDICATED POWDER FOR FAMILY USE

Soothe itch of simple rashes with Mexsana, formerly Mexican Heat Powder. Relieve diaper rash, heat rash.

Barking Sands

Kauai, fourth in size of the Hawaiian Islands, has a beach whose sands emit a barking sound when walked upon.



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HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

BOX CARS: Plywood is being used in the construction of 750 new box cars for the Canadian Pacific railway, thereby saving 850 tons of steel.

NAZI AGENT: George Viereck was found guilty on six counts of violations of the Foreign Agents Registration act, in a federal court in Washington, D. C.

JAPS: According to a dispatch from the Tokyo radio, Lieut. Gen. Prince Gin Li has been appointed commander of the Japanese air force, succeeding Lieut. Gen. Teramoto.

CHERRIES: Hundreds of city boys and girls are leaving Chicago to help pick the Wisconsin cherry crop.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

More than a million dollars' worth of schools are destroyed by fire per month.

The number of women applying for admission to medical schools in 1942 was the largest in the history of the schools, and was greater than in the preceding year by 25 per cent. In 1941, 636 women applied for admission; in 1942, 810 applied.

The hog population is liable to outrun the feed supply.

A scientific "detective force" of six dermatologists and a chemist has tracked down causes of skin diseases, and prevented further outbreaks, among workers in more than 50 government and privately owned arsenals and war plants, U. S. Public Health Service officials announce.

Agricultural Notes

The "back to the farm movement" is gaining force right along.

If oats are grown as a companion crop in the seeding of legumes, a variety which matures early and produces a minimum amount of straw should be used. Kanota and Vieland are best suited for this purpose in addition to giving excellent grain yields.